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JOB SERVICE

Michigan Employment Security Commission

SLIGHT INCREASE IN STATEWIDE JOBLESS RATE

The statewide unemployment rate edged upward as the level of joblessness rose from 10.2 percent in February to 10.5 percent in March. The slight rise in the jobless rate represents 18,000 additional individuals out of work, as total state residents seeking employment climbed to 459,000. The increase in joblessness was primarily a result of an expanded civilian labor force unable to find work. The Michigan workforce jumped by 70,000 over the month with the total labor force equalling 4,399,000. Total employment in March registered significant growth as the number of employed individuals accelerated by 53,000 to reach 3,941,000. Compared with a year ago, employment in Michigan has surged by 176,000, while the size of the labor force has expanded by 94,000. In March 1984, the total number of persons out of work amounted to 540,000, representing an unemployment rate of 12.5 percent.

MARGINAL GAIN IN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in Michigan rose for the fourth consecutive month as industry jobs increased to 3,381,000 in March. Employment opportunities grew by approximately 26,800 as nonmanufacturing jobs jumped and governmental agencies expanded marginally. Total manufacturing employment at 956,100, slipped by 1,400 as nonelectrical and electrical machinery gains were easily offset by automotive losses. Private nonmanufacturing employment advanced by 26,800 to 1,839,100 in March, as retail trade and service occupations each increased by 10,000 jobs. Government positions inched upward by 1,500 primarily as a result of local sector payroll advances. Since March 1984, industry employment in Michigan has climbed by 69,600 positions or 2.1 percent. Approximately 52,700 nonmanufacturing jobs have been added throughout the year, while manufacturing and government accounted for increases of 13,100 and 3,900, respectively.

MICHIGAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (1981–1985)